

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 HA-05 PRS-01 CA-01

VO-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00

FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 SSO-00 /066 W

-----090239 301742Z /43

O P 301650Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4443

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

S E C R E T YAOUNDE 503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CVIS, CM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASYLUM ON BEHALF OF ETHIOPIAN CITIZEN

THEODRUS HAILE-MESKEL

REF: YAOUNDE 484

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM WITH UNDP THAT GURC, ALLEGEDLY AT REQUEST OF HAILE-MESKEL, IS PREPARED TO RETURN HIM TO ETHIOPIA. UNDP RECEIVED A CARBON COPY OF A DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING FUNDS FOR HAILE-MESKEL'S REPATRIATION ON SATURDAY FROM MEVAA, CHIEF OF SERVICE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO HAND CARRIED DOCUMENT TO UNDP. ORIGINAL OF NOTE CONTAINING HAILE-MESKEL'S APPENDED STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY REQUESTING REPATRIATION AND WITHOUT WHICH UNDP WILL TAKE NO ACTION HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED.

2. DURING VISIT FROM VICE-CONSUL, UNDP REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONED MEVAA TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF CASE. DURING THIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION UNDP REP. EXPLAINED THAT BEFORE HE COULD COMPLY WITH REQUEST IN NOTE, MESKEL MUST BE INTERVIEWED TO CORROBORATE REPATRIATION DEMAND AND ORIGINAL NOTE MUST BE RECEIVED IN UNDP HANDS. MEVAA IS SAID TO HAVE STATED THAT HE

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WISHED HAILE-MESKEL OUT OF CAMEROON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; HOWEVER, IT NOW APPEARS THAT GURC WILL TAKE NO ACTION PENDING MESKEL'S PROCESSING AND TICKETING BY UNDP, A PROCEDURE WHICH COULD REQUIRE SEVERAL MORE DAYS.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE TO UNDP FROM GURC: "I AM SENDING YOU A PHOTOCOPY OF A REQUEST COMING FROM MR. THEODRUS

HAILE-MESKEL OF ETHIOPIAN NATIONALITY TO WHOM THE CAMEROONIAN
AUTHORITIES, OWING TO THE FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCE, HAVE HAD TO
GRANT THE RIGHT OF POLITICAL ASYLUM TO A DISPLACED PERSON. I
HAVE THE HONOR TO REQUEST THAT YOU KINDLY TAKE CHARGE OF
MR. MESKEL'S AIR FARE FROM YAOUNDE TO ADDIS ABABA SINCE HE
HAS FREELY EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY.
I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD GIVE PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS
MATTER AND I ASK, MR. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE THAT YOU ACCEPT
THE ASSURANCE OF MY MOST DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION."

4. EMBASSY IS PERPLEXED BY GURC STATEMENT THAT THEY HAVE
GRANTED RIGHT OF POLITICAL ASYLUM. HOWEVER, OUR IMPRESSION IS
THAT LOWER LEVELS OF GRUC AND UNDP ARE FED UP WITH HAILE-
MESKEL ACTIVITIES AND WOULD BE GLAD SEND HIM ANYWHERE INCLUDING
ETHIOPIA, IN ORDER END PROBLEM. HAILE-MESKEL DID NOT

RETURN TO EMBASSY AS REQUESTED THIS AFTERNOON. CONSULAR
OFFICER SAW SUBJECT BEING TAKEN FROM POLICE VAN INTO JAIL
DIRECTLY ACROSS STREET FROM EMBASSY WHEERE WE ASSUME HE TO BE
HELD PENDING REPATRIATION.
SMYTHE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM
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Draft Date: 30 jan 1978
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Decaption Note:
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